

REMARKS

Claims 1-13, 17-19, 23-24 and 29 have been cancelled. Claims 14, 20, 21, and 25-28 have been amended. New claims 30-55 have been added. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Applicants' counsel wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the personal interview on June 30, 2005. The following records the substance of the interview.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indicated allowability of claims 19-22 and 26 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed during the interview, Applicants have amended claim 14 into allowable form by including the limitations of allowed claim 19 and intermediate claim 17. Additionally, as discussed during the interview, Applicants have clarified the originally translated language in claim 14 to recite "the visible light characteristic changing layer having a visible light characteristic thereof changed by exposure to a laser beam that enters from a label surface side". Accordingly, Applicants submit claim 14 is now in condition for allowance.

Further, claims 15, 16 and 20 depend from claim 14 and are also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Regarding allowable claim 21, Applicants have rewritten this claim into independent form by including the limitations of base claim 14. Applicants have also clarified, as discussed during the interview, that the visible light

characteristic changing layer has “a visible characteristic thereof changed by exposure to a laser beam that enters from a label surface side”. Hence, Applicants submit claim 21 is now in condition for allowance. Further, claim 22 depends from claim 21 and is also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Regarding allowable claim 26, Applicants have rewritten this claim into independent form by incorporating the limitations of base claim 24. Hence, Applicants submit claim 26 is now in condition for allowance. Further, claims 25, 27 and 28 all depend from all claim 26 and are also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 14-18, 23-25, and 27-28 were rejected as being anticipated by IWASAKI et al. (US 6,329,035). Further, claims 1-3, 5-7 and 29 were rejected as obvious over OGINO et al. (JP 09306144) in view of IWASAKI et al. Also, claims 4 and 10-13 were rejected as obvious over OGINO et al. in view of IWASAKI et al. and further in view of BUGNER et al. (US 6,109,324). Finally, claims 8 and 9 were rejected as obvious over OGINO et al. in view of IWASAKI et al. and further in view of HUBER et al. (US 6,654,324). Although these grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed, Applicants have canceled the above-noted claims and amended others in the interest of expediting the issuance of the application. Applicants will continue prosecuting such claims, all variations thereof, in one or more continuation applications.

As discussed during the interview, Applicants have added additional claims 30-55. In particular, independent claim 30 recites an optical storage

media comprising a substantially flat optical disk, the disk including at least one reflective layer and a visible light characteristic changing layer provided over substantially all of the at least one reflective layer. At least one side surface of the visible light characteristic changing layer has a rough texture. Support for this claim can be found on page 15, line 3 - page 16, line 6 in reference, for example to Figs. 3 and 4. There, for example, the visible light characteristic changing layer has rough surfaces formed from a plurality of minute dots having, for example, circular or non-circular shapes, or formed from a porous surface layer having a plurality of minute pores. As such, at least one side surface, (and/or both side surfaces) of the visible light characteristic changing layer has a rough texture.

Regarding IWASAKI, Applicants point out that IWASAKI, as shown for example in Fig. 9, does not provide a recording layer over substantially all of a reflection layer that has a rough texture. Accordingly, Applicants submit new claim 30 is patentable over the cited art.

In view of the above, Applicants submit independent claim 30, along with dependent claims 31-37, are in condition for allowance.

Regarding new independent claim 38 discussed during the interview, it recites an optical storage media comprising a reflection layer, a visible light characteristic changing layer arranged over the reflection layer, wherein a visible light characteristic thereof is changed by exposure to a laser beam, and a translucence layer formed adjacent to the visible light characteristic changing

layer. Regarding new independent claim 47, it recites an optical storage media having the reflection layer and visible light characteristic changing layer, as well as a light scattering layer formed adjacent to the visible light characteristic changing layer. Applicants respectfully submit claims 38 and 47 are allowable for similar reasons with respect to claims 21 and 26 as set forth in paragraph 12 of the Office Action. In particular, independent claim 38 recites a translucence layer formed adjacent to the visible light characteristic changing layer and claim 47 recites a light scattering layer formed adjacent to the visible light characteristic changing layer. Support for these claims can be found, for example, on page 16, lines 7-20 and Fig. 19. Accordingly, Applicants submit independent claims 38 and 47, along with dependent claims 39-46 and 48-55, respectively, are also in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

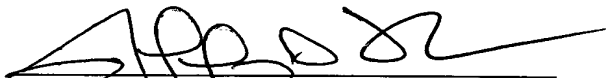
It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect

Serial No. 10/053,238
Amendment Dated: July 5, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 4, 2005

a timely response and shortages in other fees, be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Deposit Account of Crowell & Moring, L.L.P., Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #101749.56391US).

Respectfully submitted,

July 5, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey D. Sanok', written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey D. Sanok
Registration No. 32,169

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844

JDS/SWP/pct
382666v1